

# Irrigated Lands Update



**EXPANDING REQUIREMENTS FOR GROWERS**

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# What's Required of Irrigated Agriculture

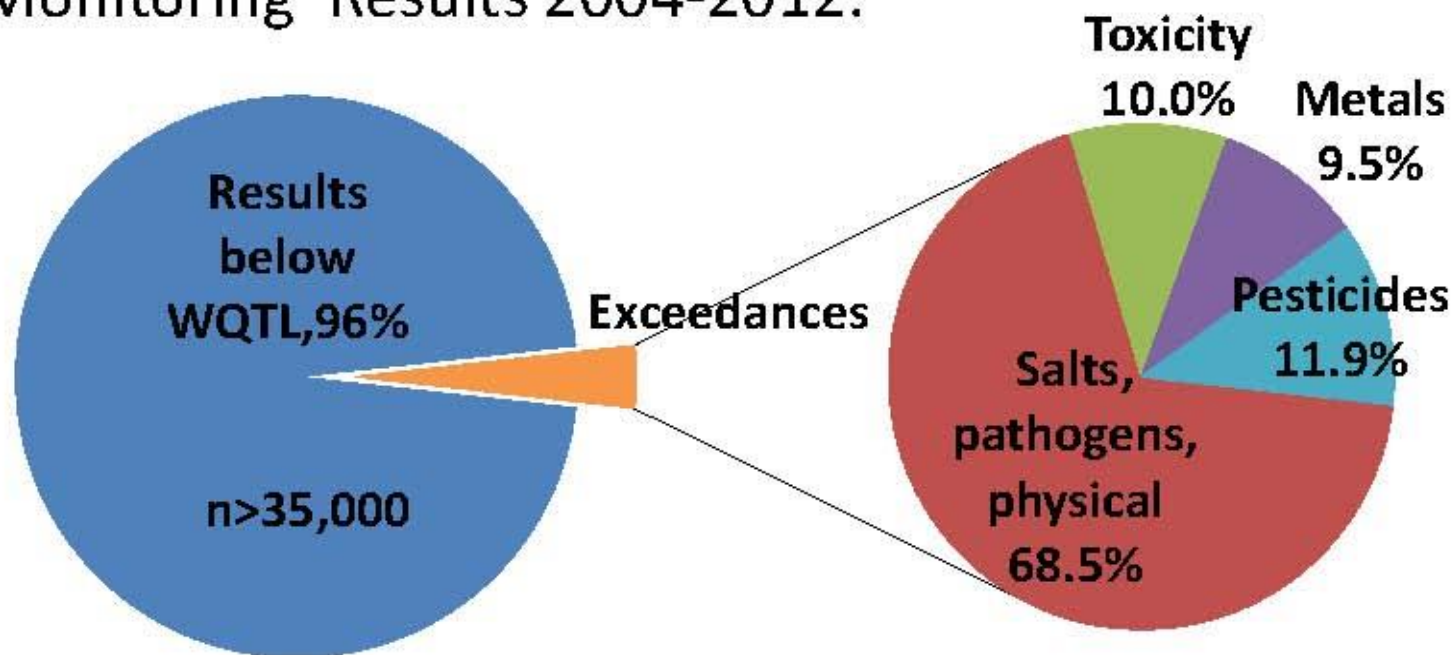


- Demonstrate farming operations are protective of surface quality.
- Monitor and report exceedances of water quality objectives
- Implement Management Plan when two exceedances in a 3 year period occur of any water quality parameter
- Comply with Basin Plan Amendments and TMDLs where irrigated agriculture “causes or contributes” to water quality exceedances

# Surface Water Quality Monitored under the Conditional Waiver

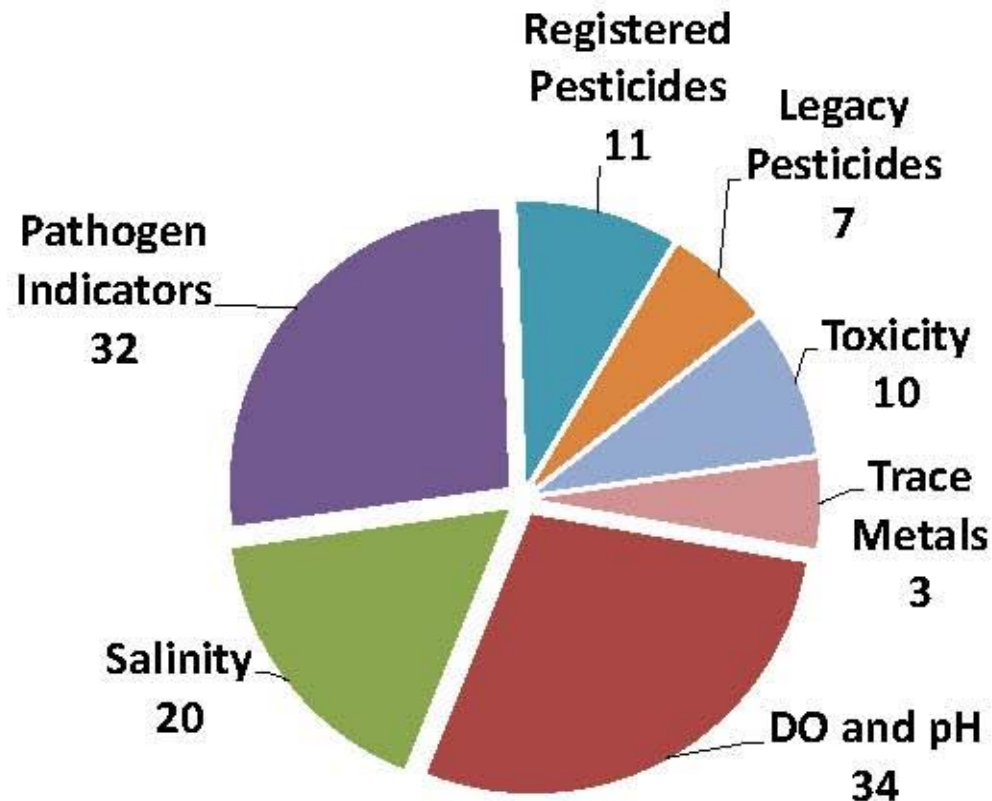
## *Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition*

- 1.2 million acres enrolled under the Conditional Waiver
- Monitoring Results 2004-2012:



# Management Plans in the Sacramento River Watershed

*Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition*



# Expanded Focus/New Requirements



- New Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) and Monitoring Reporting Program (MRP) have groundwater quality component
- New grower and Coalition reporting requirements
- Identify areas where groundwater quality is impacted by developing a Groundwater Quality Assessment Report
- Trend Monitoring - baseline
- Monitoring/Management Practices Effectiveness Program

# Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program



- Surface water only
- Coalition groups
- 25,000 growers enrolled / 5 million acres

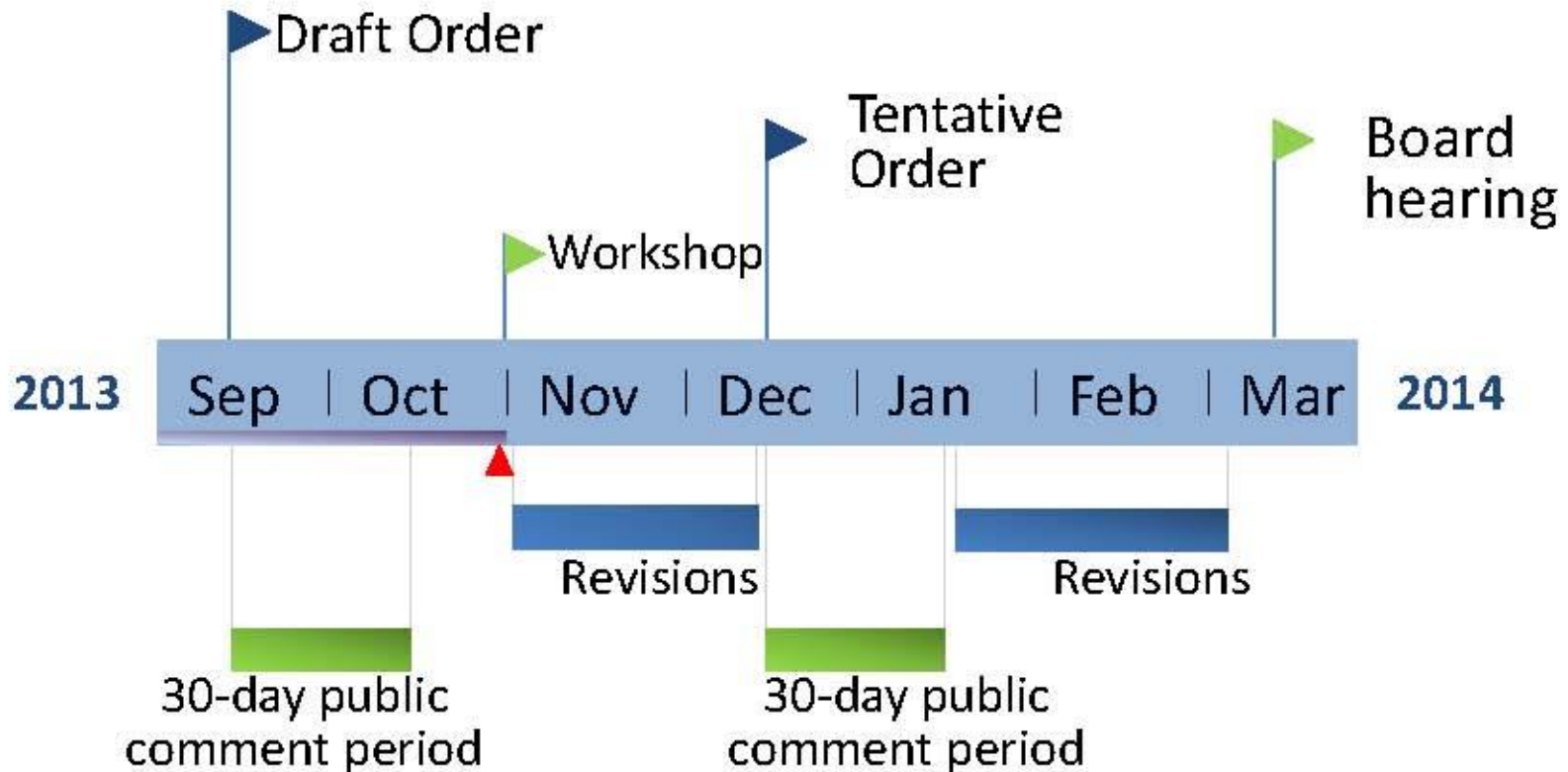


## Three Orders Already Adopted

- 2012: Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed
- 2013: Tulare Lake Basin Area
- 2013: Individual Growers (not members of third-parties)
- Five Orders by mid-2014 including the Sacramento River Watershed & Sacramento Valley Rice



# Hearing expected in March 2014





# New Reporting Requirements of Growers



- Three Types of Reports
  - Farm Evaluation
  - Nitrogen Management
    - ✦ Nitrogen Management Summary Report
  - Sediment and Erosion Control

# New Reporting Requirements for Coalitions



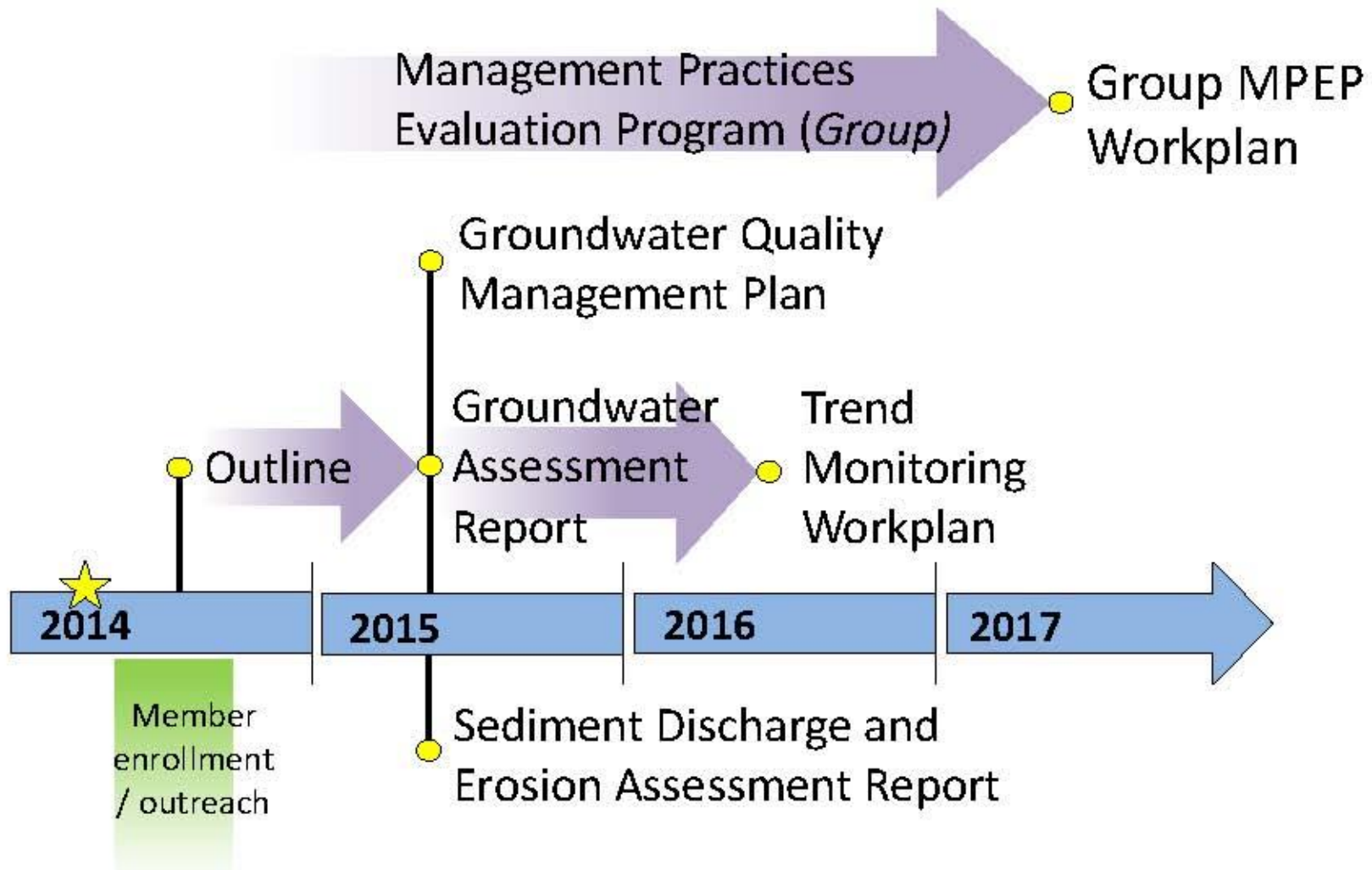
- Growers summarizes and submit to Farm Evaluation, Nitrogen Management and Sediment and Erosion Control reports to the Coalition.
- Coalition summarizes reports on Township level submits to Regional Board.
- Format of Nitrogen Management Plan reporting still being worked out.
- Coalition prepares Groundwater Quality Assessment Report.

# GAR Objectives



- Collect groundwater quality and farm management practice data.
- Designate areas that are vulnerable to groundwater quality impacts.
- Identify data gaps that prevent determination of vulnerability designations.
- Develop recommendations for groundwater quality monitoring (well locations, parameters).
- Develop recommendations and priorities for implementation of Management Practice Evaluation Plans (MPEPs).

# Timeline for Third-party Requirements




# The Sacramento River Watershed

# Nitrate Results in the GAMA database 2000-2012

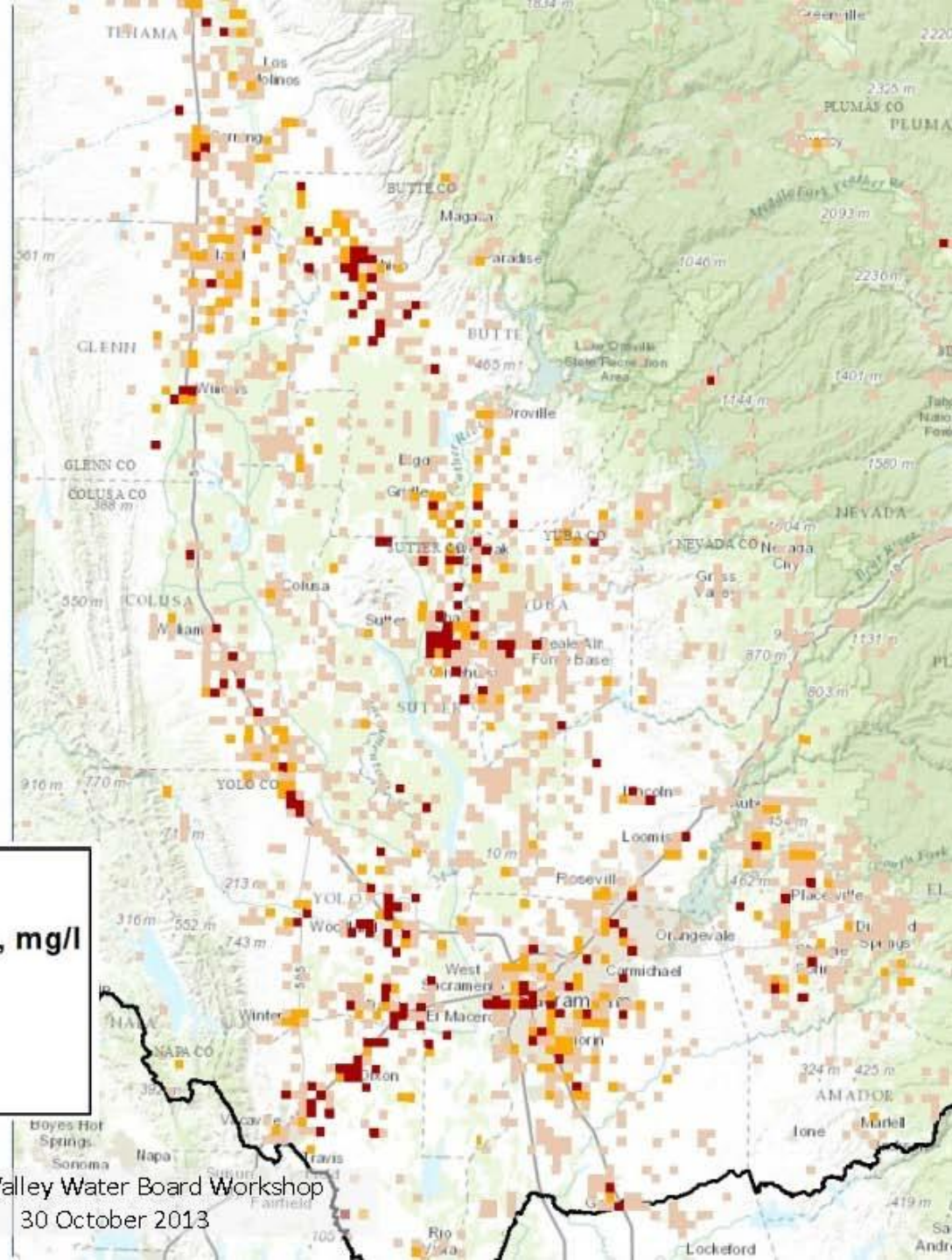


Max. nitrate result per section, mg/l

  $< 1/2$  the MCL (22.5)

between 22.5 - 45

■ > the MCL (45)





# Nitrogen Management Plan Requirements



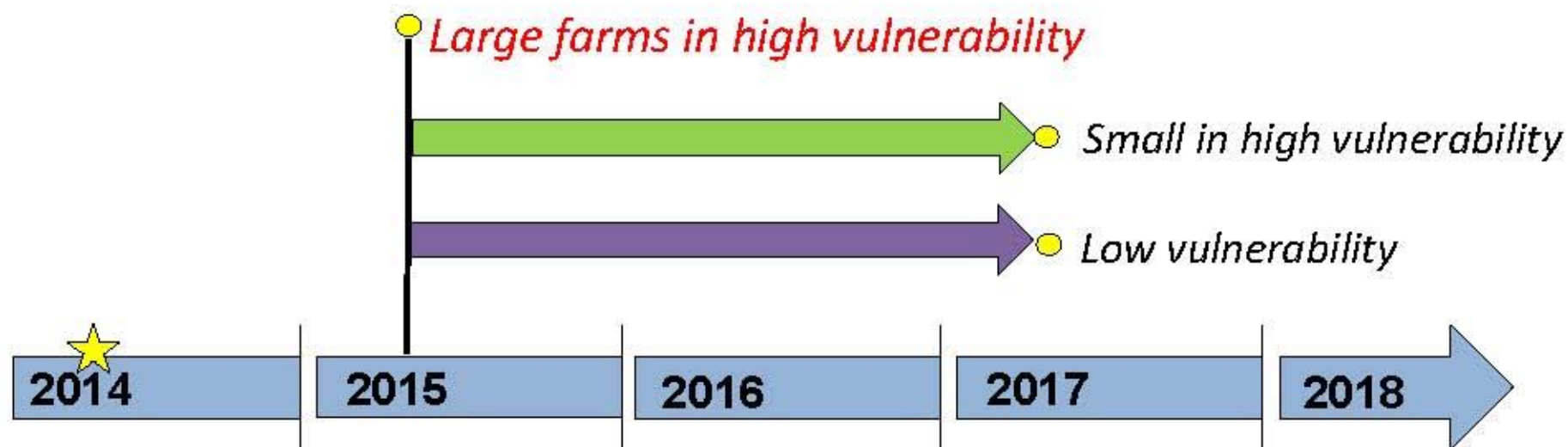
- Two levels of reporting based on vulnerability
  - Certification varies with vulnerability
- Management Plan Summary of High Vulnerability Areas

# Timeline for Member Requirements

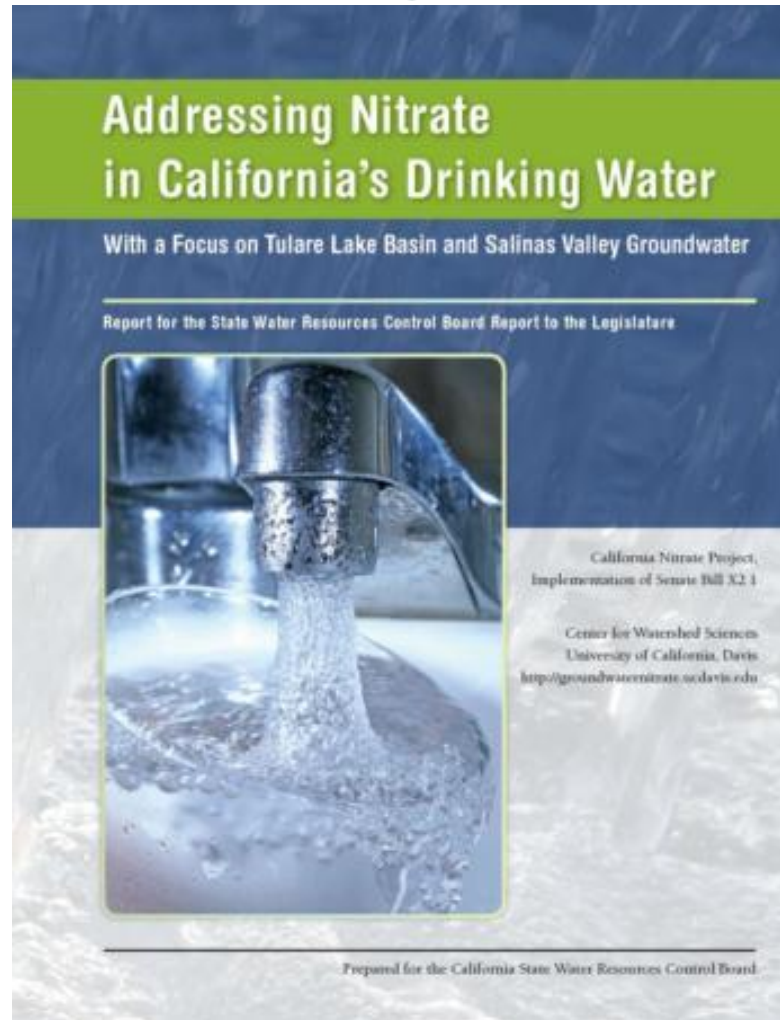
## Nitrogen Management Plan

**Extended timelines:**

- Small Operations (<60 acres)
- Low Vulnerability



# Why the Focus on Groundwater Quality

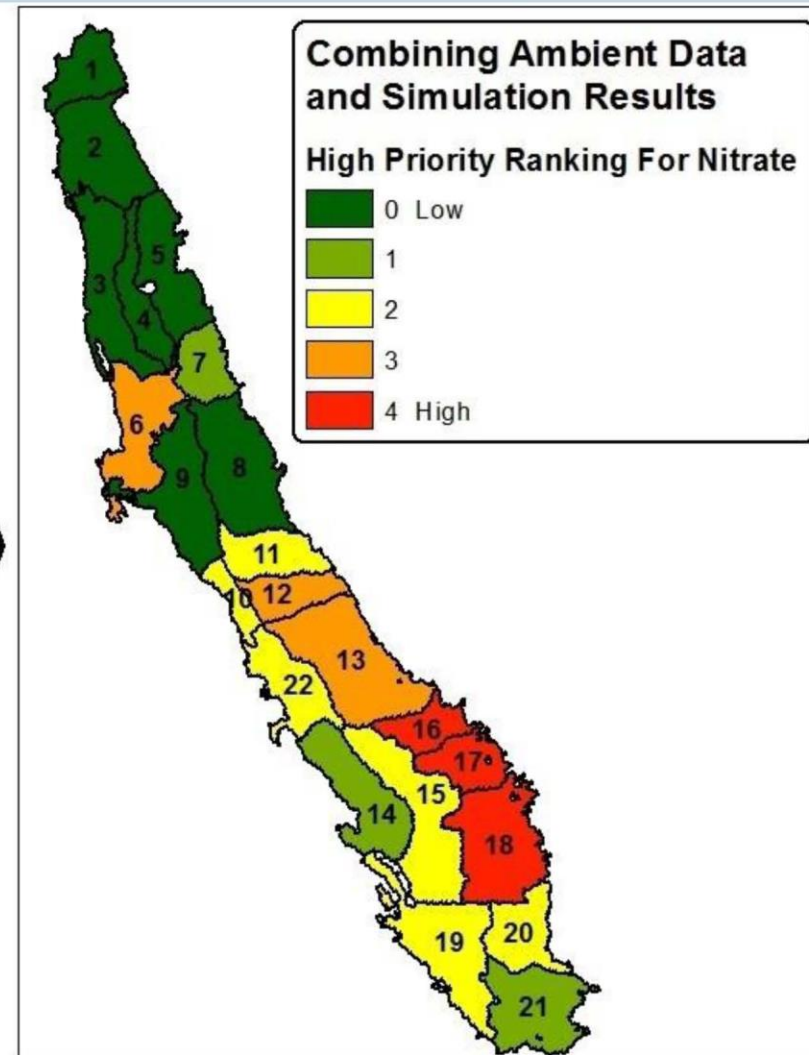
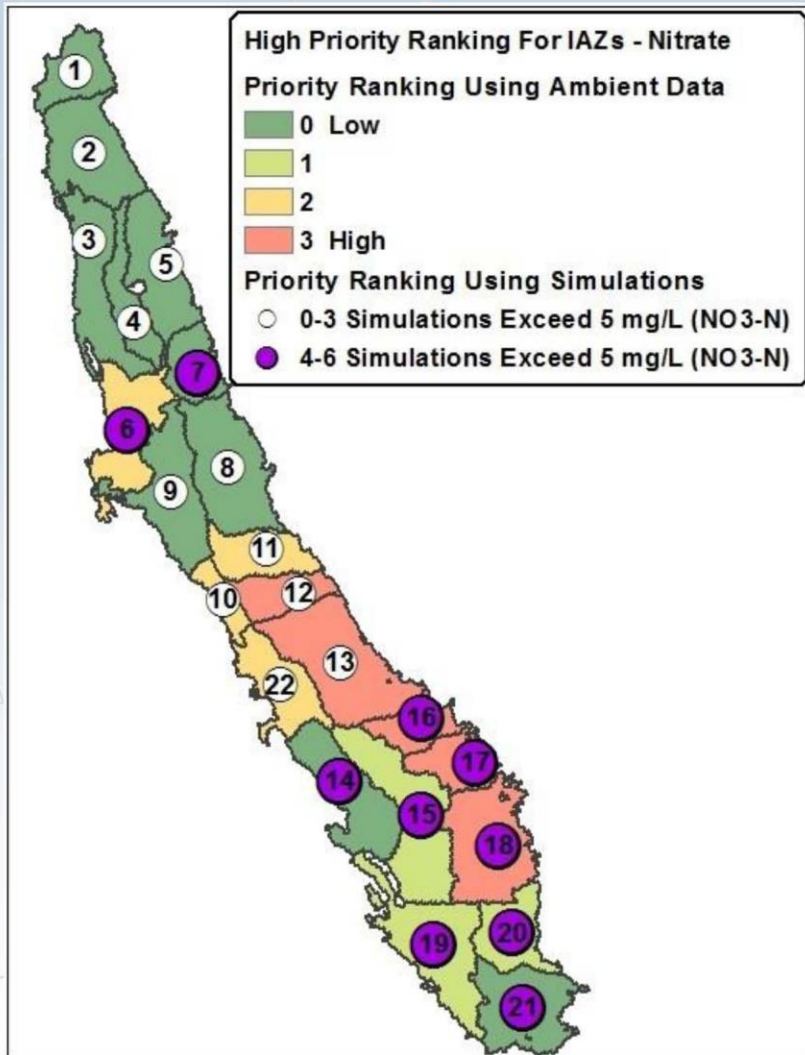


# Focus of Nitrate Discussions



- CV SALTS Basin Plan Amendment Process
- SB X 2 1 UC Davis Study of Tulare Lake and Salinas Valley
- State Water Resources Control Board Recommendations to the Legislature
  - CDFA Task Force
  - State Water Board Expert Panel
- State Water Board's *Groundwater Workplan Concept Paper*
- Legislature – Funding source to provide Drinking Water to Disadvantaged Communities

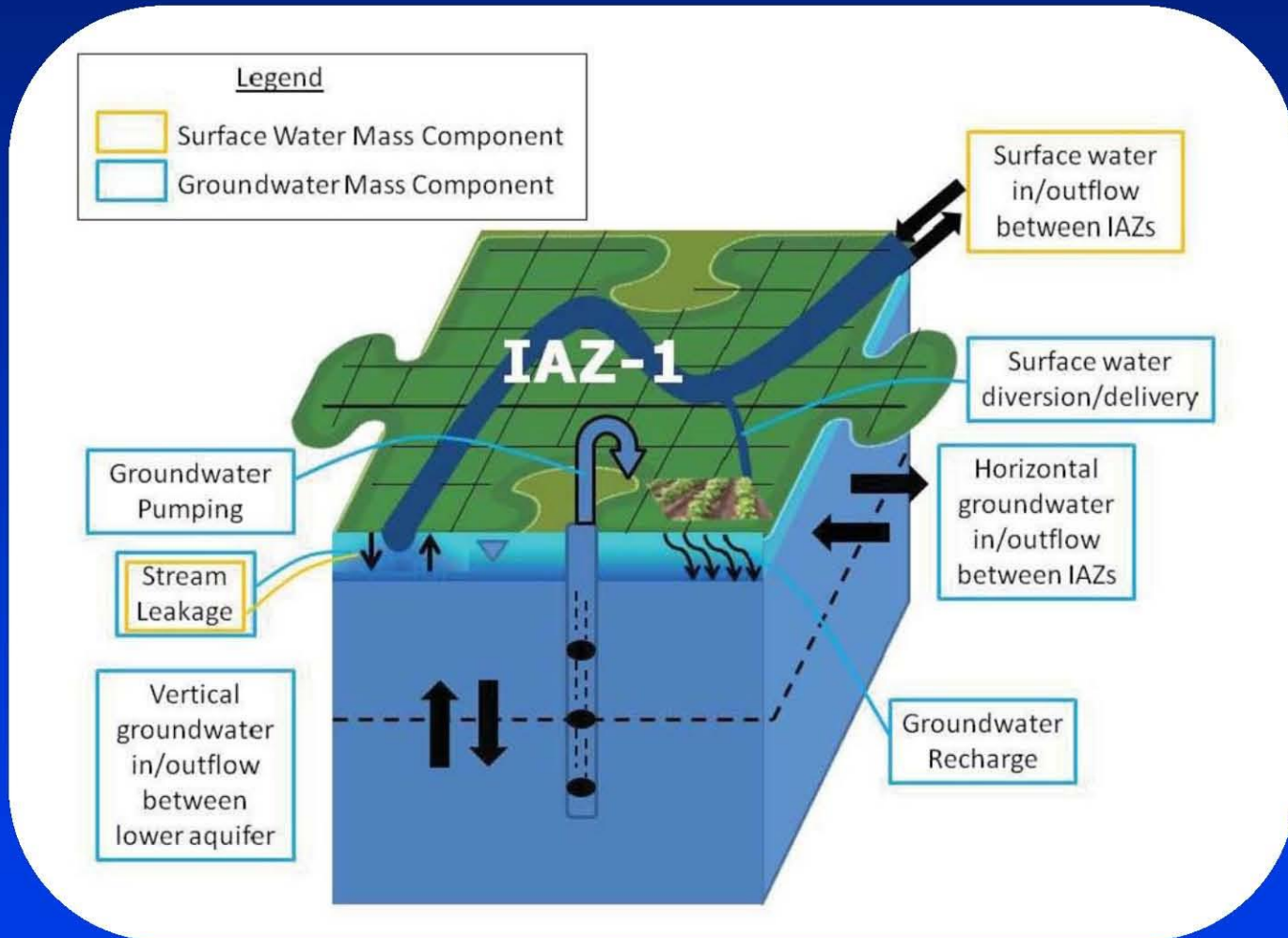
# IAZ Prioritization for NO<sub>3</sub>-N (10 mg/L)



Three IAZs exceed ranking criteria for NO<sub>3</sub>-N



# Three Dimensional View of an IAZ



# Questions and More Information



- For information on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program new Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/irrigated\\_lands/index.shtml#newwdrs](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/index.shtml#newwdrs)
- For information on the Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Basin Plan Amendment [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/index.shtml)
- For information on the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition <http://www.svwqc.org/>